

and the distribution of damage between adults and juveniles suggests that the high rate of predation has been continuing for at least a year, and probably much longer.

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The Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*) in Perth, Western Australia.—On 31 March 1968 I heard and saw a pair of strange lorikeets flying westward over Wembley. They were too large for *Glossopsitta*. The sun momentarily caught the red breast of one bird, confirming my suspicion that they belonged to *Trichoglossus*. The birds flew close together; their plump bodies, rapid wing-beats, direct unwavering flight, and occasional screeching call-note at once distinguished them from all local parrots of similar size.

From that time until December 1971 I have received a dozen reports of one to six large lorikeets in certain suburbs of Perth, viz. Crawley, Shenton Park and Daglish. Most of the observations were in the grounds of the University at Crawley. The most outlying record was from Gooseberry Hill, where two birds were seen perched on a Marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) on 11 April 1972. The birds in the metropolitan area were seen to feed at the flowers of the Lemon-scented Gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*), Marri (*E. calophylla*), Red-flowering Gum (*E. ficifolia*) and Coral Tree (*Erythrina indica*).

Only one observer (Mr. Robert Humphries) noted the colour of the neck-band. It was clearly not red, which precludes the Red-collared Lorikeet (*T. rubritorquis*) of northern Australia, from the Kimberley Division east to northern Queensland. Presumably the present birds are the Rainbow Lorikeet (*T. moluccanus*) of eastern Australia, south from Cape York to Victoria and southern South Australia.

Because of their vigour and aloofness, I believe these birds are not escapees from captivity but reached Perth unaided from south-eastern Australia. The nearest population of Rainbow Lorikeets is that of Eyre Peninsula, 1,200 miles east of Perth. Most of the intervening region is well wooded with eucalypts and melaleucas, flowers of which should sustain west-bound lorikeets. The least favourable tract Rainbow Lorikeets would have to cross is the one to two hundred miles of sparsely wooded country round the head of the Bight. Such a crossing, however, should not be difficult for strong-flying birds like these. But what would impel them to cross such a relatively inhospitable tract? One possibility is that most eucalypts failed to flower in south-eastern Australia during the great drought of 1967.

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On Egg Deposition by Cuckoos.—In this journal, 12 (3), February 1972: 69 appears an article under the title "Egg Deposition by Golden Bronze Cuckoo in a Yellow-tailed Thornbill's nest", which contains information that I feel requires further comment.

Whilst it is my belief that photographic evidence will be necessary to finally and conclusively prove the method of placement of eggs by cuckoos into domed nests, certain physical facts cannot be ignored, as they may have been by those who hold to the view expressed by Robin Hill (*Australian Birds*, 1967, p. 117) and repeated in the above-mentioned article.

These physical facts are:—

(a) Some dome-shaped nests have long and steeply upward sloping entrance tunnels leading to the egg chamber, particularly so in Australia in the case of the genus *Gerygone* and to a lesser extent the genus *Acan-*